

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 OIC-02 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10
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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
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AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, UNEP

SUBJECT: REPORT OF UNEP MEETING ON THE OZONE LAYER,
WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 1 - 9, 1977

1. SUMMARY: OZONE LAYER CONFERENCE, MARCH 1 - 9, SPON-
SORED BY UNEP AND HOSTED BY USG IN WASHINGTON AT UNEP'S
REQUEST, WAS CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL, BOTH BY USG AND BY

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UNEP OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE. OVER THIRTY NATIONS AND
SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED. MEETING
ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE "WORLD PLAN OF ACTION ON THE OZONE
LAYER" TO IDENTIFY RESEARCH AND MONITORING GAPS IN FIELD
OF OZONE DEPLETION, AND RECOMMENDED CREATION OF A
"COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE OZONE LAYER", UNDER UNEP,
TO FOLLOW UP. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBJECT MEETING WAS HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION
65 OF UNEP'S 1976 GOVERNING COUNCIL IN ORDER TO REVIEW
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN RELATION
TO OZONE DEPLETION AND EFFECTS THEREOF ON MAN AND HIS
ENVIRONMENT. THE MEETING WAS OPENED MARCH 1, BY DR.
MOSTAFA TOLBA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP (INTRODUCED BY
LINDSEY GRANT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OES).

DR. TOLBA EXPRESSED UNEP'S DEEP CONCERN WITH POTENTIAL
GLOBAL POLLUTION OF OZONE, AND CONVEYED THANKS TO THE
U.S. FOR HOSTING CONFERENCE AND FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT.

DR. ROBERT WHITE, ADMINISTRATOR OF NOAA, REPLIED ON BEHALF OF USG, CITING COMPLEXITY AND PERVASIVENESS OF PROBLEM AND PRAISING UNEP'S ROLE AS CATALYST AND COORDINATOR. FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONIES, DR. DAVID MUNRO, SPECIAL ADVISER TO TOLBA, MOVED INTO CHAIR FOR DURATION OF MEETING, WHICH ADJOURNED MARCH 7.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTED PAPERS AT CONFERENCE: AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, UN/ESA, UNEP, FAO, ICAO, WHO, WMO, OECD, ICC, AND ICSU/SCOPE. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE BOLIVIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHINA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (FROM OBSERVER MISSION, N.Y.), EGYPT, FINLAND, GUATEMALA, INDIA, IVORY COAST, LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC, NICARAGUA, PHILIPPINES, UNCLASSIFIED

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THAILAND, TOGO, UGANDA, USSR, URUGUAY, VENEZULA, AND REPRESENTATION OF UNITAR, UNESCO AND EEC.

4. ATTENDEES INCLUDED A NUMBER OF TOP EXPERTS FROM A FEW COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTING SOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., DR. F. URBACH FOR WHO). UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF CERTAIN HOPED-FOR EXPERTS, AND THE SOMETIMES EXCESSIVE EMPHASIS ON "STATE OF THE ART" IN THE VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS, THERE WAS NOT THE TYPE OF BROAD-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ISSUES WHICH WE HAD HOPED. NONETHELESS, EVEN FOR THOSE COUNTRIES NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING'S DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT QUESTION OF OZONE DEPLETION IS BOTH SERIOUS AND COMPLEX. ADDITIONALLY, A MUCH WIDER AUDIENCE SHOULD GET SAME MESSAGE WHEN MEETING'S REPORT IS PRESENTED TO 5TH UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN MAY. FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS ON ONGOING AND PLANNED RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES, CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED A WORKING DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY SECRETARIAT, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FUTURE PRIORITIES, DISTRIBUTION OF WORK AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS.

5. AFTER DISCUSSION AND REDRAFTING, THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH THE ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE "WORLD PLAN OF ACTION ON THE OZONE LAYER", AIMED AT CLOSING IDENTIFIED HIGH PRIORITY RESEARCH AND MONITORING GAPS IN AREAS SUCH AS STRATOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY AND MONITORING;

HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS (OF INCREASED ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION); SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF

INCREASED UV RADIATION AND REGULATION OF POLLUTING SOURCES.

6. SUBSTANTIVELY, WHILE PLAN OF ACTION'S IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH AND MONITORING GAPS IS NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE, UNCLASSIFIED

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MOST OF KEY AREAS WHICH WE HAD SINGLED OUT IN ADVANCE WERE COVERED IN FINAL LISTING. LIST IS A VERY USEFUL DOCUMENT AND SHOULD ASSIST COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN FOCUSING THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN AREAS WHERE WORK IS MOST NEEDED, ALTHOUGH IT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL THE IDENTIFIED GAPS TO RECEIVE IMMEDIATE AND INTENSIVE ATTENTION. TO HELP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN, THE MEETING RECOMMENDED CREATION OF A "COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE OZONE LAYER", UNDER UNEP, WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY PROVE AN EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR FOLLOW UP, PARTICULARLY SINCE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION (FROM COUNTRIES WITH "MAJOR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACTION PLAN") IS PROVIDED FOR, IN ADDITION TO INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION. COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE REPORTS ON PROGRESS UNDER THE PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF IT TO UNEP.

7. IN BROAD TERMS, WE (AND WE THINK UNEP) CONSIDER MEETING A QUALIFIED SUCCESS. ITS RESULTING PLAN OF ACTION COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR SIGNIFICANT NEW OR RE-EMPHASIZED RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES. THERE HOPEFULLY WILL BE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE PLAN AND ACCEPTANCE OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AT UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. WE WILL CERTAINLY SO URGE. ALSO, WE EXPECT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE, TO TRY TO ASSURE THAT KEY IDENTIFIED ACTIVITIES ARE GIVEN ATTENTION NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY WHICH THEY DESERVE.

8. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE DURING MEETING AND AT FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM AP, UPI, REUTERS, AFP, ITALIAN AND WEST GERMAN WIRE SERVICES, PLUS A VARIETY OF U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS. WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REPORTS DURING CONFERENCE; OTHER PRESS COVERAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT YET KNOWN.

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Message Attributes

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